

Constantino, Mike

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From: anne.murphy@hklaw.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 5:05 PM
To: Constantino, Mike
Attachments: Letter of Support_Sister Sheila Lyne.pdf

APR 20 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

I attach a letter of support from Sr. Sheila Lyne on Project 10-078 (Proposed Discontinuation of Oak Forest Hospital), and ask that it be placed in the project file.

Thanks.

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MERCY HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60616-2477
phone 312.567.2000

April 11, 2011

Mr. Dale Galassie
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Support of Project 10-078

Dear Chairman Galassie:

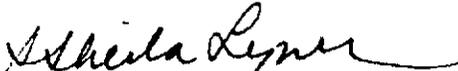
As a Director of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System and as President and CEO of Mercy Hospital and Medical Center on Chicago's South Side, I am writing to urge your approval of the proposed discontinuation of Oak Forest Hospital. I believe the proposal before the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board is an important and much-needed step to transforming access to health care for our area's most needy patients.

Providing access to health care for safety net populations is my mission. Aside from serving as the CEO of a South Side hospital through many challenging times, I have also served as the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health, and have volunteered on countless committees, boards and initiatives focused on improved safety net access in Chicagoland.

I can attest that the commitment of the System to provide health care to underserved communities is unwavering. The System is a leader in the region, providing free medical care to those most in need. The proposed changes to Oak Forest will replace an underutilized and outmoded inpatient facility with new and expanded outpatient, primary and specialty care services. It is a prime example of how we can take leadership to reform healthcare and actually increase access for many areas patients by redirecting them to receive the care and services where they are most needed.

The plan to replace Oak Forest Hospital with a Regional Outpatient Center is good public policy and will allow scarce resources to be put to use by providing more health, wellness and specialty services to communities in the south suburbs.

Sincerely,


Sister Sheila Lyne, RSM